

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TAIPEI 05275 050405Z

12
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 USIA-06 /017 W
----- 011759
R 050336Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0605

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SCUL
SUBJ: HOLIDAY ON ICE CONTRACT WITH S.K. WANG

REF: 75 TAIPEI 6474 (C) AND 76 TAIPEI 0771 (C)

1. POST APPROACHED BY S.K. WANG WHO REQUESTED USIS LETTER TO MINISTRY OF EDUCATION STATING EMBASSY HAS NO OBJECTION TO WANG SPONSORING "HOLIDAY ON ICE" PERFORMANCES IN TAIWAN LATER THIS YEAR. IN THE PAST, LETTER HAS BEEN A NECESSARY FORMALITY REQUIRED BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. SUCH A LETTER DID NOT INDICATE ENDORSEMENT, BUT WITHOUT IT CULTURAL GROUPS WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO PERFORM.

2. CAO REVIEWED WITH WANG COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIM LISTED IN REFERENCED CABLES. CAO STRESSED THAT MISTAKE TO REFUSE TO DISCUSS CIRCUS MATTER WITH CONSULAR OFFICER. WANG APOLOGIZED AND GAVE POOR ENGLISH UNDERSTANDING AS AN EXCUSE.

3. ON SPECIFIC CHARGES WANG CLAIMS TAX CHARGE REFERRED TO IN REFTTEL 6474 WAS \$60 TAX ON PERSONAL PURCHASES BY INDIVIDUAL MEMBER GROUP. HE FIRST REFUSED TO PAY, BUT AFTER MONTHS DID EVENTUALLY. EXTRA PERFORMANCE WITHOUT COMPENSATION REQUIRED BECAUSE ACCORDING TO ORIGINAL CONTRACT, COPY SHOWN TO CAO BY WANG, 16 SHOWS PER WEEK AGREED TO IN WRITING. U.S. PRACTICE, HOWEVER, LIMITS NUMBER TO 14. WANG DEMANDED GROUP FULFILL TERMS CONTRACT.

4. DESPITE GRAPH 2 ABOVE, CONSULAR OFFICER REPORTS THAT AFTER HE
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SPOKE TO WANG, CHINESE STAFF MEMBER DISCUSSED MATTER WITH HIM

ON PHONE. WANG SPEAKING IN CHINESE WAS NO MORE COOPERATIVE. CONCERNING OTHER DIFFICULTIES MENTIONED REFTEL, POST UNABLE TO DETERMINE FROM HERE. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM "ICE FOLLIES" MANAGER AND CONSIDER INFORMING "HOLIDAY ON ICE" OF PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

5. FYI, WANG CLAIMS "ICE FOLLIES" OWNER PRESENTLY IN JAIL IN CANADA.

6. WANG COMPETING WITH FORMER ASSISTANT GEORGE WANG WHO ATTEMPTING TO SPONSOR "ICE COMPANY" HERE SAME TIME FRAME AS "HOLIDAY". S.K. WANG CLAIMS MOE WILL ALLOW ONLY ONE ICE SHOW PERFORM HERE. MOE APPARENTLY NOT SATISFIED USIS LUKEWARM LETTER WRITTEN MAY 14 STATING LACK OF OUR OBJECTIONS TO "ICE COMPANY'S" TOUR HERE. GEORGE WANG NOW SEEKING STRONGER ENDORSEMENT FROM USIS.

7. THIS FIRST TIME USIS LETTER CHALLENGED. THERE ARE INDICATIONS GRC CONCERNED NUMBER AND DURATION OF FOREIGN ENTERTAINERS COMING HERE. ONE MOE OFFICIAL MENTIONED TO CAO THAT BOTH ICE SHOWS PLAN OVER NINETY PERFORMANCES HERE AT FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS PER SHOW. THIS NOT ONLY DRAIN ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE BUT COUNTER TO GRC AUSTERITY DESIRES. OFFICIAL POINTED OUT THAT RECENT YEARS HAS SEEN DRAMATIC INCREASE IN CULTURAL EXCHANGES. CAO AGREED THAT THERE HAD BEEN TWO-WAY INCREASE ROC-U.S. CULTURAL EXCHANGES.

8. POST WILL AWAIT DEPARTMENT ADVICE BEFORE WRITING LETTER FOR S.K. WANG OR ADDITIONAL ONE FOR GEORGE WANG.
UNGER

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